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providing a composition comprising an α -adrenergic blocker; and
applying an effective dose of the composition to the anal region.

35. The method of claim 34, wherein said composition further comprises a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier.

36. The method of claim 34, wherein said blocker is an α_1 -adrenergic antagonist.

sub c2
37. The method of claim 34, wherein said blocker is doxazosin.

38. The method of claim 34, wherein said blocker is prazosin.

39. The method of claim 34, wherein said painful condition is selected from the group consisting of anal fissures, anal ulcers, and anal hemorrhoids.

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40. The method of claim 34, wherein said painful condition results from hemorrhoidal ligation or recent surgery involving the anal region.

41. The method of claim 34, wherein said composition is a topical preparation.

sub c3
42. The method of claim 41 wherein said topical preparation is a formulation selected from the group consisting of dry, liquid, cream and aerosol formulations.

43. The method of claim 34, wherein said α -adrenergic blocker is present in said composition in an amount from about 0.001% to about 15% by weight.

44. The method of claim 43 wherein said amount is from about 0.01% to about 7.5% by weight.

45. The method of claim 34, wherein said composition further comprises an antibiotic.

46. The method of claim 34, wherein said composition further comprises an analgesic agent.